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of the Irish Pulpit, on the attention of the Irish public—and, in the words of Dr. Chalmers, (on a quite different occasion) would say to the publishers, " Go on, you must do good."

Thoughts on the Death of the Rev. George Hamilton. **By the Rev. Peter Roe, Minister of St. Mary's, Kilkenny.—Dublin: R. M. Tims—1830.**

To speak favourably, and yet not flatteringly of the dead, is no easy task; when death comes and shuts the scene of the life and labours of the virtuous, their memory comes back upon us sweetly and freshly, crowned as it were with the enriching dews of heaven, and freed by the awful change which has visited the mortal form, from all those frailties which must needs be cast upon the surface in the busy tide of life. But on the character of him whose decease gave rise to the 'Thoughts' before us, death could make no change: as the scholar, the man, and the Christian, he had long and most deservedly ranked high among his fellow labourers; and from an acquaintance of no short duration, we can bear testimony to the truth of Mr. Roe's rapid but characteristic sketch of his departed friend—who was indeed and in truth, as he says,

> " A lover of the bible—a friend of truth—an enemy to, and an exposer of false doctrine—an advocate of free inquiry, and of the right of private judgment;—he brought to the pulpit, to the platform, and into society, a comprehensive mind, well stored with facts, not with speculations—extensive and diversified information—an intimate acquaintance with the Hebrew Scriptures—a memory which scarcely ever failed—an eloquence most convincing—a collectedness of spirit and manner, that was proof against taunts and captiousness—and a fearlessness that no aggression could daunt."

We fully agree with Mr. Roe in in thinking, that in his death

> " The Church of England has been deprived of one of her most enlightened and useful ministers; the different religious societies of one of their most zealous supporters; his family of a relative, who, as a husband, a father, a son, and a brother, gave ample proof that his faith was not inoperative—but that while it gave peace to his soul, it made him conscientious in the discharge of every duty; his associates, of a friend, sincere and constant—his friendship was undeviating, like the principles upon which it was founded. In so selfish a world as this is, the death of such a man does, indeed, produce a chasm that may not readily be filled up."

With the excellent writer of this pamphlet, we sincerely hope, " that a sketch of the life and labours of the Rev. George Hamilton may be given to the public."

Byzantium, and other Poems, **By B. A. Marshall.—Whittaker and Co. London. 1831**

Sketches of Genius, and other Poems, **by D. Corkindale.—Robins, London, 1831.**

Having already, in another part of our publication, had occasion to speak of the poets and poetry of the present day, and feeling assured many of our readers will conside that a *quantum suf.* of the productions of Parnassus has already been ordered for insertion, we shall merely observe that, although in the little work of Mr. Marshall, there is nothing very splendid, or which would call forth a warmth of praise, there is still much to commend. It contains some very pretty strains of poetry—considerable feeling—and is free from any thing which we could decidedly condemn.

To " Sketches of Genius," by Mr. D. Corkindale, we may award the same meed of praise. It is an imitation of Byron however, and certainly gains nothing by the contrast which will naturally force itself upon the mind of every individual who has ever read a page of the noble bard's writings—and who has not?

VARIETIES—LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC.

Minerals and Gems of Ireland—Our emerald isle is deficient neither in the useful metals nor in precious gems. A few of our numerous mines are in a state of profitable exploitation. A remunerating quantity of copper, lead, and tin, is extracted from their ores, and is exported.

Ores of iron cobalt, and manganese, are to be seen at Howth and in other parts of Ireland. The working of our gold and silver mines have been discontinued, but will undoubtedly be resumed at a future period, when the condition of our country shall be more prosperous than it has been for a very long time back. Beryl and feldspar occur in the county of Wicklow. A mineral, preferable to feldspar, has been detected thickly inlaid on the surface of beds of mica slate, at Killiney, a mile south east of Dunleary. Agate pebbles are found on the sandy beeches of the north-eastern shores of Lough Neagh. Rock crystal, known on account of its peculiar brilliancy, and probably of its abundance, by the name of Kerry, or Irish diamond, is met with in nearly all parts of Ireland, especially in some of the celebrated lakes of Killarney, in the county of Kerry. Mineral coal, house slates, flags, marbles, and freestone, fit for architectural purposes, abound in many parts of our country. We likewise possess no inconsiderable number of mineral springs of medicinal qualities, especially chalybeate and hydrosulphureous spas, and other waters containing divers saline ingredients. Our sea-coasts exhibit an endless variety of curious shells, well meriting the attention of the conchologist.—*M.S. Life of Dr. Kirwan, by Dr. John O'Reardon.*

Magnetism. — When magnetism was first observed, it was supposed to be confined to ferruginous bodies, and indeed to owe its origin to that species of iron-ore called loadstone, which is naturally magnetic, and if rubbed on steel, communicates that property to the metal. Iron, though attracted by the magnet, was known to intercept its influence when at a little distance, and to transmit it when in contact, without becoming permanently magnetic. Magnetism has of late been observed in a variety of metals as well as iron, when exposed to a current of electricity, though the electro-magnetic attraction may perhaps differ in some particulars from the ordinary magnetic power. When a piece of soft iron bar is in contact with a magnet, it attracts ferruginous metallic substances as if they touched the magnet itself; but the moment the iron bar is removed the attraction ceases. If a a thin plate of iron be put between a magnet and another piece of iron, but so as not to touch either, their magnetism is entirely intercepted. Now both these effects result from the extraordinary affinity of iron for magnetism, and this affinity in iron and steel surpasses that in any other substance, to a degree that has given rise to the popular notion that these metals are alone affected by magnetism. It appears, however, that all substances which have been hitherto examined are more or less magnetic, that is to say, they are attracted by magnetised steel. They have also, like iron, the property of intercepting magnetism, but in a much less degree, and these qualities are both proportional to the relative affinities for magnetism in different substances. Where that affinity is least, there the greatest thickness is necessary to produce the effect; in iron it is so strong, that (as we observed) a thin plate is sufficient to intercept the magnetic influence;—but it may be shown that, if the attraction is very powerful (as between two magnets,) and the plate very thin, the magnetism is not *entirely* cut off; which proves that the affinity of iron is commensurable with that of any other substance.

If a circular disc of copper, lead, or any other metal, be made to revolve rapidly on an axis, under a glass-case, and if, on the top of a case be put a magnetic needle, nicely hung, the needle will begin to turn round, and in a little time acquire a considerable velocity. If the experiment be reversed, and the disc be magnetic, a needle of any metal placed over the case is similarly affected.

Now, if between the needle and the disc be interposed a plate of iron, all attraction is intercepted, and the revolution of the needle ceases; but if we desire to intercept the magnetic influence by any other metal, we must use a much thicker plate: thus, when a plate of iron' need not be more than the twentieth of an inch in thickness, one of copper must be three or four inches—of zinc still more—and of other metals a greater or less thickness is necessary. In fact, if we suppose that the affinity of iron for magnetism is one hundred times stronger than that of copper, then a plate of copper must be one hundred times the thickness of a plate of iron, to produce the same effect.

Wood, glass, and fluids, and, we believe, all other substances, are capable of cutting off the magnetic communication, but in a less degree than metals. *Lecture delivered by Mr. Harris, at the Royal Institution, London.*

Cherokees.—A proposition having recently been made to remove this tribe to the west of the Mississippi, the following from the *Gazetteer* of Georgia may be interesting :—"Within the last twenty years, the Cherokees have rapidly advanced towards civilization. They now live in comfortable houses, chiefly in villages, and cultivate large farms. They raise large herds of cattle, which they sell for beef to the inhabitants of neighbouring states. Many mechanical arts have been introduced among them. They have carpenters and blacksmiths; and many of the women spin and weave, and make butter and cheese. The population, instead of decreasing, as is the case generally with tribes surrounded by the whites, increases very rapidly. There are now 13,563 natives in the nation; 147 white men and 73 white women, who have intermarried with them. They own 1277 slaves. Total, 15,060 souls. Increase in the last six years, 3,563.

Freedom of some of the American States.—Virginia contains a population of 1,065,366, of whom upwards of 420,000 are slaves ; Georgia 350,000, of whom 150,000 are slaves. We do not urge this against the Americans ; they are as sensible of the moral wrong as we are: but the relative numbers well explain the danger that Jefferson foresaw in this unnatural state of society.

Extraction of Potash from certain Minerals.—This alkali, so important in the arts, may, it is stated, be extracted from minerals containing it, by a very simple process. This consists in merely calcining them with lime, and then leaving them for some time in contact with water, which is afterwards filtered and evaporated. M. Fuchs, as quoted in the *Ann de l'Industrie,* states, that he has in this manner obtained from 19 to 20 per cent. of potash from feldspar, and from 15 to 16 per cent. from mica.

Remarkable Case of the Re-union of a divided Part.—In the Quebec Hospital Reports we find the following case:—A man, in chopping wood, cut off the first phalanx of the middle finger. For two hours after the accident he remained occupied at home. Although the divided portion of his finger then appeared to be deprived of vitality, it was determined to follow the plan of Balfour of Edinburgh, and to attempt to re-unite the parts. The tip of the finger was fixed to the stump by adhesive plaster, and in three days union had taken place in two or three parts; and the extremity of the finger which had been divided had as much sensation as any other part of the body. The dressing was continued, and in three more days the re-union was complete.

To restore the Elasticity of a Damaged Feather.—A feather when damaged by crumpling may be perfectly restored by the simple expedient of immersing it in hot water. The feather will thus completely recover its former elasticity, and look as well as it ever did. This fact was accidentally discovered by an amateur ornithologist of Manchester. Receiving, on one occasion, a case of South American birds, he found that the rarest specimen it contained was spoiled, from having had its tail rumpled in the packing. Whilst lamenting over this mishap, he let the bird fall from his hands into his coffee-cup; he now deemed it completely lost, but, to his agreeable surprise, he found, that after he had laid it by the fire to dry, the plumage of the tail became straight and unruffled, and a valuable specimen was added to his collection.

Lord Byron.—A satire has been left by Lord Byron, to which the "English Bards," in point of bitterness, is only a mixture of milk and honey.